

The
Old Paludians Newsletter

Founded 1915

Website: www.oldpaludians.org

March 2005

~~~~~ *Celebrating Ninety Years* ~~~~~

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**Slough Secondary School** first opened its doors in January 1912 and three years later Europe was in the grip of a massive conflict. Names such as Mons, Arras and Ypres were already part of the language. Others were still to come and be forever etched on the minds of the nation - Verdun, Jutland, Somme, Passchendaele and so many more. Thus it was ninety years ago - in 1915 - when a number of masters and senior boys from the School were serving their country in the Great War and others were reaching school-leaving age to take their place in society, that it was suggested an Old Boys and Old Girls Association be formed and its first social meeting was duly held in the School Hall. Following an idea from the Headmaster, Mr W. Francis Smith, the Association was named **The Old Paludians** (from *palus*, *paludis* - the Latin word for slough, mire or muddy place) and so it has remained.

The School name may have changed; girls and boys were to be separated and come together again under one roof, the Old Paludians was divided and, now, has come together once more with an Annual Reunion attended each March by almost equal numbers of 'boys and girls'. It is a great achievement for such an Association to have survived such tumultuous changes and be stronger than ever before. And so, this year, we are celebrating our 90th Anniversary with the earnest hope that the Association will still be flourishing to enjoy its centenary. To accomplish this next milestone, the words of Miss Crawford who served as Slough High School's Headmistress 1936-1962, still ring true "*So many have contributed through the years to the success of our Schools and we trust that the present generations will prove themselves to be worthy successors.*"

To mark our Anniversary a new Book has been produced and when we asked you to put pen to paper a year ago, we had little idea just how many wonderful contributions would be received. The book had to be doubled from its original planned size and it is very much a real part of the social history of Slough. Our thanks to everyone who penned their memories and we are sure the book will be very much enjoyed by all those who read it.

We thank Mrs Lenton for letting us invade the School once again and we also thank the staff who help both in the run-up to the Reunion and on the Day itself. It is an occasion looked forward to by many as a chance to meet up with friends and to exchange news. We hope everyone will enjoy themselves.

And now for a surprise ..... after 90 years or thereabouts .....

..... Guess what has come to light? As the result of belongings turned upside down following an unfortunate burglary, one of our oldest members came across **THE SONG OF THE OLD PALUDIANS** -

O stand by your School Friends and they will stand by you.

For Old Pals are best pals, in Failure or success.

So here's to the Old Pals and to the S.S.S.

although there is a note concerning the tunes, there is no mention of the author. We believe the Headmaster, Mr W Francis Ball and possibly Lowells and Trears. For Johns and Davis-Davies, let's give three hearty cheers: Here's to every Old Pal; and may we soon all meet again; really love to know for certain if there is any other mention of it in any of the archives, or in the original volumes of the School magazine. It was a complete surprise to everyone.

2. Now School days are over, but Friendships remain;  
And 'Old Pals are best pals' shall be our one refrain,  
'Ad Astra' is our motto in Failure or success.  
So here's to the Old Pals and to the S.S.S.

Let's all send out a greeting to Pals beyond the sea;  
Extend a hearty welcome to young Pals who will be  
The Old Pals of the Future, and wish them all success.  
So here's to the Old Pals and to the S.S.S.

Come, rally round your colours - the Gold and Double Blue;  
'Ad Astra' is our motto and it will steer you through;  
Change work into a pleasure; turn Failure to success.  
So here's to the Old Pals and to the S.S.S.

Tunes: VERSE 'Home, Sweet Home.'

CHORUS 'Weel May the Keel Row'

*I apologise unreservedly for any errors and omissions in this Newsletter - these are entirely mine. It is a big undertaking but a very enjoyable one and I know from the many comments received that it is well-read and it gives everyone pleasure. Thank you for your support and all your contributions. Please keep your news coming in as the file for newsletter 2006 begins as soon as this one for 2005 is completed! Valerie.*

**\*\* FROM THE CHAIRMAN \*\***

On the occasion of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary it seems pertinent for me to record thanks to all those people who in earlier years have made a contribution to the establishment and continuing management of the Old Paludians. Their hard work and enthusiasm have enabled the Association to flourish and reach this milestone. I hope that this support will continue so that we can celebrate our centenary in 2015.

I wonder how Mr W. Francis Smith imagined the future of the Association when he founded it in 1915. He would surely have been pleased that we are still going ninety years on, but overly surprised that we can keep in touch with members throughout the world by way of our website and by email.

I would like to thank members for their recent support. Firstly, for the written contributions for the book (without them there wouldn't have been a book), and secondly, for the very generous financial donations. As at the 1st March these stand at over £800 in response to Mrs Lenton's request for the International Baccalaureate, and at over £1,100 for our own fund. We use our fund to cover the costs of printing and postage and for the donations that we make to the School Library and for School Prizes.

We have continued to be actively involved with the School. Some of the members who live nearby have invigilated during School and Public Examinations, and in the Autumn Term we ran two six week courses for students called 'Out and About Historical Slough' as part of the School's Leading Edge Initiative. With others I have attended Speech Day, the Celebration for the Chinese New Year, and a Musical Concert.

At the time of writing this I can report that the Committee have been invited to be in school on the occasion of a visit by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh planned for the 18<sup>th</sup> March. This will be a memorable occasion for us all, a highlight during this Anniversary year.

It seems that not all members received their invitations to this year's reunion. Mainly this affected members who were sent their letter by email. In some cases we had not been notified of a change of email address, and in others it looks as if our letters were rejected by the member's email server. I can only suggest that for next year's reunion, if you have not heard from us by the beginning of February, then please contact us and ask for your invitation.

In concluding I would like to thank the Book Committee and especially David Rogers and Jennifer Ballard for the hard work which they put into getting the book, 'School Ties' ready for publication, to Valerie for producing another interesting Newsletter and to Mrs Lenton, our President, for her continuing support.

Jean Tyler  
Chairman

**\*\*STAFF NEWS\*\***

**Mrs N Boul** (1936-45, 1950-73). Mrs Boul continues to live in residential care in Woking. She enjoys the large-print books and doing word puzzles. Her twin great grand-daughters are nearly three and they now have a year-old sister – they live in USA and are well travelled. Her grand-daughter, Helen, completed her medical degree last summer and is a junior houseman. *We all send our best wishes to Mrs Boul – we miss her on Reunion Day – the Newsletter will enable her to catch up on everyone's news – Ed.*

**Miss G E Booth** (1942-72). My best wishes for 2005 to all the Old Paludians.

**Mrs Margaret Roberts** (née Oates 1947-52). After 51 years of marriage, Mrs Roberts lost her husband in January last year. She has been enjoying the Newsletters, catching up on news of everyone at the High School. *Thank you for your kind remarks and we all send you our condolences in your sad loss. Valerie.*

**Miss Marguerite L White** (1947-71). Miss White continues to live in the small village of Kirk Hammerton in the North Riding of Yorkshire, about 10 miles NW of the city of York. She is almost blind now but continues to take an interest in the village and loves to hear from pupils from the High School days. She will be 95 in May. We send her our love and good wishes. *She was my form mistress in the 5th form and I have fond memories of her – Ed.*

**Mrs Maureen Hancock** (1950s). Spent from June to December at my 'other' home in a wonderful part of Kerry. It is peacefully quiet and near to the sea – got back just in time for Christmas. Good wishes for an enjoyable day.

**Mrs Doreen Pritchard** (Murden 1951-56). I am unable to attend the Reunion on 19 March but please give my good wishes for a happy day. I am enjoying retirement enormously, especially travelling with my husband. It is lovely to be able to see many of the features which I talked about in my geography lessons!

**Mrs Joyce Sprigg** (Patrick 1953-57). *Mrs Sprigg once again sends a newsy letter from Australia:* "It was interesting to catch up on news of people I knew in last year's Newsletter although I was sad to hear of Connie Shaw's death. No overseas trips this year – too many scares such as SARS, bird 'flu etc! Seven of us went to see the autumn colours in the Victorian Alps – in my area few leaves survive the summer heat! The gum trees keep their leaves all year round and there were spectacular scarlets and yellows which reminded us of the UK. More recently a Church group went to Ballarat and Wangaratta via the Great Ocean Road – a stunningly beautiful scenic drive, largely cut into the rock face overlooking the sea. It was a government project originally to provide work for the men returning after WW1 and it was extremely hard work. I continue to produce about 3 plays each year at Church with the adults and 'easier to organise' children! Some of the men regard it as a chance to catch up on opportunities missed in primary school! It all settles down eventually though. All good wishes for a very successful Reunion." *Thank you for your letter – I looked up some of the places on the Internet and they look spectacular – ah well, back to Slough – Valerie.*

**Mrs Alice Beck** (Gerber 1955-78). Had an anxious year with her husband's health and hopes things will improve in 2005.

#### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM \*\***

**'Major' James Wharmby** (1946-82). *A tribute to Major Wharmby was compiled by his colleague David Browne* (SGS 1964-1996); *it is featured in full on the Old Paludians website. The following words have been taken from that tribute – Ed.*

Jim Wharmby taught at Slough Grammar School from 1946 until his retirement when the school merged with Slough High School in 1982, working his way from Assistant Master through Head of History to become Deputy Head. He died last June a few days after his 88th birthday. He attended grammar school and Sheffield University, where he excelled at history and cross-country running, and had signed-up to take a master's degree, although he left to take a teaching post in Aintree. Sadly, the war prevented his ever taking the MA course. His wartime experiences were many and he served with Orde Wingate's Chindits, fighting behind enemy lines in Burma. Jim was one of the long-serving staff who came to Slough just after the War and who were the backbone of the School for three or more decades. At times he was feared by some pupils, who were on the end of a burst of rhetorical questions which could not be answered yet basically Jim was a kind and humorous man with a love for his subject and a dedication to teaching. It was as 'The Major' that Jim will be remembered by many Old Paludians. As OC of the School ACF unit, Jim ran the cadets for over 25 years, with little or no help for much of the time. After retirement, Jim went through a period of ill-health but remained ever alert, determined, and polite, if increasingly frail until his death. On behalf of many

former pupils and colleagues – Thanks, Jim: we are grateful for the influence you had on our lives.

*Editor's Note: Sometimes we are unaware of the passing of members and are informed too late for inclusion in the Newsletter for that particular year. Even if a considerable time has elapsed we like to include notes about those who have died because their former colleagues, school friends and contemporaries like to recall happier times. The gift of a book is given to the School Library in remembrance: each book has a special nameplate recalling names and years at the School and in this way their presence lives on in a practical way. Where possible the Librarian tries to match the interests of the member with the subject matter of the book.*

### **\*\*1920s\*\***

**Bob Sands** (1923-28). Bob will be celebrating his 93rd birthday this year. *Happy Birthday – Ed.*

**Joyce Preddle** (Hobson 1929-32). Had a difficult time last summer but quite fit again now. Still doing my usual jobs at home and in our Quaker Meetings. Had a lovely 90th birthday celebration last August – I am just 20 days older than my husband. Thank you for keeping me posted with all the news of everyone. *Belated good wishes for your Special Birthdays – Ed.*

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Mrs G M Bennett** (Knight 1922-26). Sadly we have to report the death of one of our oldest members at the age of 94. Known as 'Benny' to her friends, she passed away peacefully in November 2004 at Burnham Lodge. Gwen writes: She was happy there and the Staff had looked after her wonderfully. She was an accomplished musician, playing violin and viola and started taking piano lessons at the age of 60. She learned to drive at a time when there were not many lady motorists and one of her jobs was as chauffeur to the Head of Times Furnishing. She was less than 5 feet tall and it was quite a sight to see her perched on a cushion driving a large Studebaker. She also drove ambulances during WW2. She is fondly remembered and sadly missed by her family and many friends. *We extend our sympathy to her sister Gwen, so long our Old Paludians treasurer, and to the other members of Benny's family - Ed.*

### **\*\*1930s\*\***

**Peter Bennett** (1930-36). Peter is still in Oxford House, Slough and is settled – just recovering from a cold but generally well.. He is currently writing his memoirs of his Army service. Despite his poor eyesight he is able to read normal print although he prefers the large print books. *Very good wishes from us all – Ed.*

**Marjorie Cruse** (1931-35). My time at the Secondary School was such a long time ago and I am unable to get about as much as I would like but I am always interested in reading the annual Newsletter. I am still living in sheltered housing in Gerrards Cross and , having lost my dog last year, I've given a home to a 9 year old 'rescue' cat called Rosie – she has made herself very much at home! I hope you have a very successful Reunion on 19 March. *Sorry to hear about your little dog as I know how much you enjoyed her company. I am pleased to hear about Rosie and I am sure she is the 'boss' by now. Keep well – Ed.*

**Gabrielle Moody** (1931-36). I still keep active but beginning to feel my age – 86 now! However I still do my own housework and cooking. Please remember me to anyone who knew at the old Slough School. *Gwen has put Gabrielle in touch again with Joyce Preddle (Hobson 1929-32).*

**George Pontin** (1931-36). George is dubbed *The Bird-man of Wexham*. Since 1992, George has been

making bird feeders and to date, he makes them to 11 different designs spending a couple of hours a day happily keeping himself out of mischief and birds everywhere happy. Believe it or not, he has made **43,000** since he first began. He is having a day out though, when he and his fiancée, Nancy, will be at the Reunion catching up with old friends. *We look forward to seeing you both – Ed.*

**Margaret Black** (Sands 1932-37). Greetings to everyone for a very happy Reunion day. I'm sorry I'm unable to be with you. I do enjoy receiving the Newsletter and keeping in touch with Old Paludians and School activities. **Joyce Egelstaff** (Walker 1937-42), **Rosemary Kemp** (Newman 1940-48) and I keep in close contact. My brother (**Bob Sands** 1923-28) is still enjoying life and celebrates his 93rd birthday this year. **Alyson Coney** (Skinner 1950-55) is my niece and continues to lead her busy life – she now has 2 grand-daughters. I'm a great, great aunt four times over!!! *Many thanks for all your news –our best wishes to you – Ed.*

**Margaret Gillett** (McGillivray 1932-37). Sadly I cannot attend this year's Reunion but extend to any left who may know me – the favourite wish I try to extend to all – Good Health!! Best wishes to all and to **Mrs Lenton** for a good response for her appeal. She reports that **Warwick Dyer** (1932-39) is well again. *Margaret asks for part of her donation to go towards the purchase of a book about Maths (in which he excelled) in memory of her late brother William W McGillivray who was a pupil from 1931 –38. This we will gladly do – Ed.*

**Hilda Halls** (Milcoy 1932-37). I am sorry I shan't be able to come to the Reunion – a journey of 250 miles each way is not possible these days. Please remember me to anyone who knew me either at School or when I was Secretary of the Girls' Section. If anyone is in Cornwall and would like to get in touch, I would be pleased to see them. *I do hope you get some callers in your lovely part of the country – Ed.*

**Joan Clack** (Waite 1933-38). Will be with you in spirit – very best wishes for a splendid afternoon.

**David and Ann Neale** (David [1934-40] and Ann [Keeping] 1945-50). We send our apologies for absence on 19th March. David's mobility is now seriously affected as a Parkinsons disease symptom, while Ann is coping with an arthritic left knee development. We convey our warm greetings to those who remember us. Life continues as a large family here at South Woodford with our elder daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren (one now at University).

**Doreen Pearce** (Currie, formerly Brant 1934-40). Look forward to seeing everyone – had my knee op and re-taxed the car, so I should be OK now! Recently celebrated the arrival of my second great grand-daughter.

**John Mabbott** (1935-41). I'm less mobile than before, and the opportunity to make an annual visit to Cape Town has gone with the return of my eldest daughter to this country but I plan to have 2 weeks in Dubrovnik this autumn. My organ playing days have finished, due to the arthritic induced inability to guarantee which keys I hit! Exercise is by courtesy of my dog but we both require rather less as time goes on. *I am sure you will miss your trips to Cape Town but good to have your family back. Keep up with the dog's exercise – Ed.*

**Gerry Lines** (1936-41). Gerry phoned from Canada to wish us a very happy Reunion Day. Living in Maple, Ontario, it just too far to travel but wishes he could be with us – would I recognise the Grammar School, he wonders? He has corresponded with **Arthur Day** (1936-42) and **Allan Burney** (1936-41) in the past year or so and hopes they are both well. He wishes to be remembered to **Ken Bryant** (1936-41) and to **Alan Mabbot** (1942-50). *I wonder if it is Alan's brother John (1935-41) that you remember best? It is such a long while ago. Best wishes from us all and keep warm: the temperature had risen from –20°C to a dizzy high of 0°C when I spoke to Gerry – Ed.*

**Mavis Mackinnon** (Cooper 1935-41). Please convey my best wishes for a good meeting – I am unable to come to the Reunion as I have to rely on public transport now; I am nearly 80 and it would be difficult for me.

**John Ware** (1936-41). I am sorry I will not be able to attend the Reunion on 19th but I send my best wishes for a happy and successful day. I am keeping in very good health, and working virtually full time in my practice in Burnham. I still have contacts with a number of Old Paludians – some of whom joined with me at the 'new' school in Lascelles Road when it opened in September 1936!

**Arthur Day** (1936-42). I am hoping to come this year – trying hard. Please call if you are down this way in Teignmouth. *Do hope you will make it - fingers crossed – Ed.*

**Rene Elfer** (Bubb 1937-42). The journey is just too long from Louisiana USA, but good wishes to everyone and have an enjoyable day. I keep fit and well – and busy – with my large family which includes 5 great grandchildren. Somehow, there's still time to do voluntary work at the local hospital three days a week. *I*

*know how you look forward to hearing about our Day – this year you will have two reports from both Muriel and Christine. Keep well – Ed.*

**Iris (Betty) Hull** (Burnett 1937-42). It's been a difficult year as my husband Tony had a mystery collapse last July and has been quite unwell for some months. He is now recovering very slowly, but still chronically fatigued. We hope to make up on cancelled holidays in 2006. I will not be at the Reunion this year, but send very good wishes to all old friends. I did dredge up some recollections for the new book "School Ties" - I hope they made it past the editor! If any old friends call at West Bay (Bridport) to see our new "Jurassic Pier", do call and see us. We are in the phone book, J. Anthony Hull. Will be thinking of you all on the day. *Our best wishes for Tony's full recovery and I hope you get some visitors – Ed.*

**Paddy May** (1937-44). Weather – and health – permitting I hope to be at the Reunion on 19 March but just for the pre-lunch chat and coffee. Look forward to seeing some of my contemporaries then, both male and female. Best wishes for a bumper attendance.

**Jean K Jones** (Grant 1938-42). I am really looking forward to the arrival of the Newsletter – always a welcome sight as it arrives with the post. Having reached the 'golden oldie' stage I seem to know fewer names but I still correspond with **Jean Bostock** (Burnett 1936-41). This year has not been too good on the health front, having all sorts of problems including a couple of spells in hospital. Despite a recent hip replacement, I am still driving and playing bridge. I hope you all have a lovely day. *Jean continues to be our 'sole representative' on the continent of Africa. She lives in Bergvliet which is in the southern suburbs of Capetown and looks to be a glorious location. We send our good wishes for better health in 2005 – Ed.*

**Audrey Tarrant** (Elderfield 1938-44). In sending best wishes to everyone, Audrey tells us that her dear husband Phil has passed away. He died last August aged 80 with all the family around him. Although he requested no flowers, the family asked that friends might wish to plant a yellow rose in their own garden – this way there will be flowers for him from friends all over the world. *What a lovely idea. We were saddened by the news and we send our love and remembrances to you and the family. Ed.*

**Gerry Shaw** (1938-44). Will be coming to the Reunion with son (**Stephen** 1963-70). *Gerry may not realise but we arrived at the title of the new Book from a small piece he submitted for inclusion!! It seemed to be a very fitting 'play on words' so we hope he will not claim any royalties. Thank you, Gerry – Ed.*

**Betty Britten** (Boys 1939-42). Many thanks for all the work entailed in running the Old Paludians. You have a number of very grateful 'Old Girls'.

**'Micki Vale** (Flinn 1939-43). I'm still travelling! Since I last wrote, I have been on a short safari, cruised the islands off W Africa and taken an educational trip to Italy. I have also visited Peru and the fantastic 'lost' city of the Incas, Machu Picchu, which lies high in the jungle-covered Andes. In addition I also visited the Isla da la Plata, 20 miles off the coast of Ecuador - yet I am still happy to return to rural Sussex. Love to all.

**Joyce Amoroso** (Kirtland 1939-44). I had hoped to attend this year but something urgent has cropped up. My family are all fine and doing so well at work, Uni or school – we are really proud of them. We now have 10 grandchildren – the list never seems to stop!! My husband keeps well – he's 81 this year and he still climbs trees (to cut down dead growth or to prune, I should add)!! We both play bowls still and our team is doing well. After 3 years of problems, my back is now OK so I can play much better. My regards to all and have a great day.

**Norman {Monty} Reeves** (1939-45). At the last minute I couldn't make last year, so hope to be OK for this year's Reunion. I am looking forward to seeing everyone - and recognising some! *You should be fine providing we all wear our labels – Ed!*

**Betty Foster** (Thomas 1939-46). I won't be able to make it this year – I can't drive long distances now especially motorways. Please give my greetings to any of the '39-'46 group. I have many happy memories of Twinches Lane. *It is unrecognisable now – a 'Business Park' with all sorts of huge warehouse type buildings and with houses and yet more houses on the hockey fields – very distressing to see it – Ed.*

**Nansi Jones** – Head Girl in 1938. I was given a little cutting at last year's Reunion which noted that it was the Diamond Wedding of Jones/Creer on 5 April 2003: at St Lawrence's Church, Upton the marriage had taken place between Nansi Jones and Victor Creer – 5 April 1943 – now living at Haslemere. *Obviously, we have moved on nearly 2 years but does anyone know any more – Ed ?*

## **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**John Gunn** (1931-36). Late news as we went to press – sadly John died 2 March – full tribute next year.

**Ken Weller** (c.1932-37/39). *Many people will remember Ken with great affection and admiration for the great musician he was – he was an organist, an orchestral musician and a choirmaster. He died in March last year just before the Reunion. Bob Moss* (1956-64) *pays this tribute to him:* Ken Weller was organist and choirmaster when I joined the Eton Wick church choir in 1956. It is due mainly to his inspirational leadership that over the next 8 years I developed the partiality for church music which I still retain today, via a regular diet of hymns and psalms interspersed with the occasional anthem or cantata. Ken was a wonderfully gifted musician and we were fortunate indeed to enjoy his services in our village “backwater”. He was a disciplinarian - what choirboy could forget that withering glare, reflected in a mirror above the organ, as he spotted some misbehaviour in the ranks? At the same time, he was essentially a kind man and always ready with a few words of encouragement or a pat on the back. He also had a stock of jokes to jolly the lads along, one of his favourites being “We’re not singing about church bingo!” when we failed to pronounce the last two letters of “Holy Ghost”. Hymns and psalms were of course bread and butter to a musician of his ability; it was at the end of a service that he was really able to go to town, and it was a real pleasure to linger after Communion or Evensong and listen to the chords and cadences as he “let his hair down” for a few minutes. I’m sure that I am just one of many who would like to say “thank you” to Ken for so many musical memories. *His wife, Eileen, also went to the School and we extend our sympathy and good wishes to her and the family – Ed.*

**John White** (1938-44). Sadly John died on 3 September 2004 after a short illness. After school John joined the Admiralty Compass Observatory in Ditton Park and returned there after a spell in the RAF teaching radar. He became an Electrical Engineer and was responsible for Navigation Systems. For many years he played both cricket and hockey for the Old Paludians and later took up 0.22 rifle shooting and for the last 15 years had been Secretary for the Maidenhead Target Shooting Club. He and Ruby celebrated their Golden Wedding last August. There is one daughter Sue, and son Steve, 2 granddaughters and one great grandson born a week before John died. He was always so helpful, especially making ‘gadgets’ in his workshop to aid members with their shooting. He will be sadly missed. *In thanking Ruby for these notes about John, we send our sympathy to her and all the family. John was very involved in getting the Sports Section going again after the WW2 and very much enjoyed all sports. Ruby also recalls the happy days attending the dances held at The Dolphin. Our best wishes to Ruby – Ed.*

**Pamela Kidd** (Scammell 1939-44). We have only recently (2/05) learned of the death of Pamela who died in July 2004 and offer our condolences to her family and friends. **Phyllis Prismall** (.Rivers 1937-43) had been close friends with Pam since they were aged eleven and **Joyce Egelstaff** (Walker 1937-42) had remained friends with her since Sunday School when they were just four years old. In later years Pam became a diabetic; she was hospitalised last year after a fall and it was following an operation for her broken leg that she became so very ill. Sadly she did not recover and the close friendship of so many years had gone. Phyllis remembers her with great affection and will never forget her help and encouragement when she herself was ill a few years ago.

## **\*\*1940s\*\***

**John Long** (1940-44). Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Reunion this year. My wife Thelma and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary last September. *Our congratulations to you both – Ed.*

**Audrey Pepper** (Hill 1940-45). Played goal keeper in the Old Paludians hockey team before going to Goldsmiths College in London in 1948. Met and married fellow student Ffen Pepper from Dover in 1950. Moved to Deal, then Dover and later Ashford in Kent. Retired from last post as deputy Head Teacher in 1957. Two children, 5 grand-daughters and 1 great grandson. Widowed in 1998. I have kept in touch with **Pat Harding** (Essex) but would love to hear from others in 5B SHS 1940-45.

**Nancy Evans** (Pardoe 1941-43). Nancy sent us information that **Miss Eileen Tucker** is now in a Nursing Home in Winchester. *Thank you for this – please give her our regards if you are in touch – Ed.*

**Fred Collins** (1941-47). Fred and Mary came from Canada again last year. They enjoyed themselves and



went on to tour around the UK before flying back to British Columbia. *Best wishes to you both – Ed.*

**Gwen Gale** (Knight 1941-47). I am sorry not to be with you at the Reunion. I would like to thank all the Old Paludians who sent me Christmas cards and good wishes. *Best wishes to Gwen for better health soon – Ed.*

**Kathy Clark** (Jamieson 1942-48). Kathy had hoped to come to the Reunion but unforeseen circumstances have now prevented this – she sends her good wishes and hopes we have a good Day. It will be the first Reunion I have missed for years.

**Margaret Paine** (Paine 1943-48). It's the age for replacements – a knee in my case and it takes time to get back to normal! I have been a bit restricted in my movements physically but getting there slowly, but now there are more 'senior moments' – am not too bad really for an 'old un'. I did manage a cruise along The Rhine with friends in September – lovely but a lot of stairs to contend with. My family and grandchildren – and my dog - still give me a lot of pleasure. **Barbara Price** (Brook 1943-48) will not be joining us this year as she will be in Australia and **Ann Roberts** (Brooks 1943-48) has a wedding that day. We look forward to seeing them both in 2006. I wish you all Good Health in 2005. Still trying to find some of our class – **Sheila Osborne, Noreen Parrymore, Sheila Rapley** and **Thelma Bannister** – if anyone has any idea where they might be, please give me a ring on 01753 643740 – any news welcome.

**Barbara Price** (Brook 1943-48). Sorry to miss the Reunion but I will be visiting my son in Australia during March and April.

**Molly Smith** (McKeown 1943-48). Greetings to everyone and best wishes for a good meeting. *Molly gives us the sad news that Sylvia Tillner (Sargeant 1943-48) died whilst on holiday in Spain. Molly and Sylvia were great friends for so many years. We are sorry to hear this news, Molly. Ed.*

**Don Taylor** (1945-48). During WW2, up to 1944 or 45, my mother **Edith B Taylor** was a teacher at SGS – we lived just around the corner. I was at primary school in Osborne Street and if there was an air raid at the end of school time, I had to stay in the school shelter until my mum came over from SGS to fetch me - I didn't like that. After 3 years at SGS, my parents decided they would send me away to boarding school and I was very unhappy to leave. I think I would have done just as well in life by staying on. I can still walk round that building in my mind, even after 60 years. Greetings to anyone who might remember me. *Don and I both worked at the Road Research Laboratory in Langley for a while – Ed.*

**David Jewell** (1943-51). *David doesn't know I am including this, so I hope he won't be too cross!!* In September David, verger at St Mary's Church in Slough, took part in a sponsored cycle ride with seven other cyclists to raise money for the Historic Churches Trust. It is an annual event and the route was planned to take in eight of the 50 churches on the designated route around Berkshire. However, last year there was another participant who was sponsored and who raised more money than David himself. In previous years, David's pet lurcher has joined in too, happily running alongside, so this time Coco officially joined the team. Coco thoroughly enjoyed himself, got enough exercise to last him several days and raised over £70!

**Annette Chant** (Pountain 1944-48). Greetings to all – I hope the Reunion Day goes well.

**Jean Cartwright** (Berryman 1944-49). Sorry not to be with you – previous commitment.

**Mary Langford** (Winslett 1944-49). Mary will be in hospital at the time of the Reunion. *Hope you are well soon – Ed.*

**Margaret Mama** (Nunn 1945-52). Many people over the years have been asking for news about Margaret. Last year **Gloria Dean** (1945-53) tracked her down but too late for any news to be included in the Newsletter. Margaret is now a Life Member. I hope Margaret won't mind me passing on the notes Gloria gave us then: She married Dr Eli Mama in 1958 and went to Nigeria; we all lost contact with her since then, but two days ago I got news, that because of the situation in N Nigeria, they had left their home there and returned to the UK - in 2000! I phoned her this morning (16 March 2004) and had a long natter: due to commitments, she's not able to get to the 2004 Reunion unfortunately. She has recently come back from a visit to Zimbabwe, where she had an emergency op for appendicitis; her husband has been quite ill over the last year. She has published a book ('The Jacaranda Children') about their traumatic experiences in the militant Muslim north of Nigeria which makes harrowing reading. *Margaret will be at the Reunion – Ed.*

**Shirley Hill** (Barrett 1945-53). Sorry I won't be able to come to the Reunion. Passing the scholarship – as

it was then called – was quite the most important thing that ever happened to me and friends and staff at Slough High School the most influential. I have been amazed that more than once when I have been abroad on holiday I have met former pupils, including one especial friend **Margaret Majewski** (Pontin 1940-45) who sadly died last year. *See In Memoriam below – Ed.* It's good to remember our joy and excitement when we bumped into each other in a café in Dubrovnik! My best wishes to all at School – and apologies.

**Muriel Aird** (Bubb 1946-53). I am delighted that I will once again be able to attend the Reunion this year having missed out last year due to my husband's illness. He is fit and well again so I will be coming with my younger sister **Christine Robilliard** (Bubb 1955-60) who has only recently become a new Life Member. Christine and I, with our husbands will be coming from Dorset, where we both live, to spend a few days in Windsor to celebrate our forthcoming 'special' birthdays. We've arranged our visit to coincide with the Reunion and will be able to visit old haunts, see old friends and get together with our brother and his wife who still live in Slough. See also news from our sister **Rene Elfer** (1937-42) and **Christine** (1955-60). I am looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up on all the news.

**Philip Seal** (1947-51). I am afraid I cannot make the 19th this year but all best wishes for the meeting.

**Mike Taylor** (1947-51). G'day from New Zealand! I would like to become a Life member but can't attend reunions as I live in Brown's Bay – a few miles north of Auckland's North Shore with views over the Pacific. I was in the 'C' Forms during my time at SGS and played soccer up to the School First XI, also athletics and cross country running. My nickname at School was 'Codge' and I would be happy for you to pass on my address and email details to anyone who wishes to contact me. I am in contact with **Peter Burgess** (1949-54) who was my contemporary. Hope the Reunion goes well. *If anyone would like Mike's details, please contact Valerie or Jean. Mike sent me some tales of his schooldays, he was quite a lad - Ed!!!!*

**Malcolm Hellings** (1947-52). Will be at the Reunion and this year will be coming with **Malcolm Doyle** (1948-52) who has been unable to make the trip from New York for the last couple of years.

**Jean Jackson** (Gouldthorp 1947-52). For the first time in many years, I will probably miss the Reunion as my daughter, Rosie, expects her second baby around that time – I will be on hand to help with 2½ year old Emily and the new arrival. So, if I don't make it, I hope the day goes well and greetings to all.

**Malcolm Doyle** (1948-52). Will make it this year after a gap – not always of my own making!

**Raymond Lye** (1948-53). New Life Member. Hopes to attend the Reunion in the afternoon with **Brian Barnes** (1948-55). *We hope you will enjoy your first Reunion – welcome to the Old Paludians. Ed.*

**Anthony and Shirley Jones** (Tony [1948-55] and Shirley [Stainer] 1948-54). Husband Tony has just become an Old Paludian. I'm pleased Tony and I are both able to attend the Reunion for part of the day. We celebrate 45 years of marriage at the end of April and we have 3 daughters and 3 grandsons. Tony worked at BEA on leaving L.S.E. and then we moved to Peterborough where he worked for Perkins Engines – after 7 years we came to High Wycombe and he worked for Massey Ferguson Ltd. We are now enjoying retirement and are free to travel. Having a daughter living in Italy and married to an Italian has compensations! Shirley goes on to say, 'I still enjoy singing and I'm a member of the Wycombe Philharmonic Choir. We are both active in the Union Baptist Church in High Wycombe – it would be good to hear news of old friends and classmates'.

**John Alder** (1949-54). Unfortunately I will not be able to attend this year. I enjoyed the 50th anniversary of our year organised by **Peter Burgess** (1949-54) at last year's Reunion. This year we have friends visiting from our days in the Caribbean - they have retired and now live in Canada. Have a good day and best regards. *I expect you get lots of visitors, living in Spain. It is grotty weather here as I am typing this – so maybe we could all come? Hope to see you next year - Ed.*

**Peter Burgess** (1949-54). Sorry I am unable to make this year's Reunion – the first I have missed for a long time. **Len Jackson** and I would like to contact - **Kevin Melia, Nick Walton & Peter Ashley**. If you know of their whereabouts please let us know. I remember **Mike Taylor** (1947-51) so well he is a great friend of mine from the 1950's, we used to go to the Palais or Burtons in Uxbridge together. When he came over in 1999? I organized a mini reunion with my/his other friends - **Geoff Hussey** from Canada and **Peter Morris** from Maidenhead including a visit to SGS. It's a small world, I am glad he has joined. My picture history book of *Slough – a Century of Change*, has been out of print for a couple of years. However, this year it is being reprinted with a new publisher – any enquiries to me. Best Wishes for a super Reunion. *Your sins will find you out! Sorry both you and Len are not able to make it this year – how can we have the Reunion*

*without you? See you next year and no excuses accepted – Ed.*

**Len Jackson** (1949-54). Len will be unable to come from Chicago this year owing to family commitments including his son's wedding. *We will really miss you – good wishes to you and Donna - Ed*

**Jeff Parker** (1949-54). With great sadness we learned that Jeff lost his wife Ellen towards the end of last year. She had been making good progress but suddenly lost her long battle. We send our sympathies to Jeff and the family. He will be staying with sister (**Norma Meyrick** 1951-56) during March and they will be coming to the Reunion.

**Eileen Pearce** ((Kitch 1949-54). Apologies for not attending – best wishes to you all.

**Roy and Ann Gilder** (Dutton 1949-55). Still living in Mevagissey and they send greetings to those who know them. They are always pleased to see visitors.

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Roy Buckland** (1943-48). Roy sadly died last June. He was a good cricketer playing for Slough and The Fidlers. He worked for NatWest Bank, becoming a manager, and lived in Farnham Common. In his youth he played cricket and football for the Old Pals and his father helped with the Old Pals football club as a 'spongeman' for a number of years. Roy was only 71 when he died – he enjoyed his allotment and he took great pride in his 8 grandchildren and would have been even prouder of his granddaughter who will soon go on to University to study history, one of his own favourite subjects. During retirement he and Betty enjoyed travelling all over the world and seeing so many lovely places. *We extend our sympathies to Betty, and family in their sad loss. Betty also remembers the dances at The Dolphin with nostalgia – Ed.*

**Margaret Majewski** (Pontin 1945-50). Her brother (**George** 1931-36) writes: "Margaret was born June 1934 and died just before her 70th birthday last May. She had been married to Conrad for 48 years and had two children, Ann and Carl, and 2 grandchildren. After leaving the High School she went to work at Glaxo Laboratories in Stoke Poges and then, when she moved to Twyford, she was in charge of the Labs at the Piggott School in Wargrave – and retired after some 42 years!. Margaret had been a member of the Royal British Legion for 25 years and had received a medal for her work; she had also been a well respected secretary of the Twyford Townswomen's Guild. Along with the other members, she had sewn her piece of tapestry to mark the Millennium and these are hung in the local Church. Quite simply, Margaret was the king-pin of our family, a great organiser and is sorely missed by all her family." *We offer our condolences to all Margaret's family and she will be missed at our Annual Reunions – Ed.*

**Mike Turner** (1945-52). *Valerie writes:* Sadly Mike died in September, shortly after returning to Australia following his annual visit. He always came to UK to attend the Hong Kong Police Reunion and would spend several weeks with his family as well as looking up many old friends. He called in to see me one very warm July day last year and we sat in the sunshine reminiscing about the past. He had really enjoyed his trip back to the old country and was in fine fettle. His sudden death was a great shock and we send our sympathy to his family. Mike had contributed a piece for the new Book and it is his sister's wish that we include his very funny account of life at SGS as a tribute to him. He was a great raconteur and his sister, Caroline, has sent on to me a number of his stories – all wonderfully written and very evocative – *Ed.*

**Eileen Barnes** We have received details from **Ann Seller** (Woodrow [aka Veronica] 1945-54) concerning the death of Eileen Barnes, who will be known to many Old Paludians. Eileen died in November aged 69 and overcame incredible health problems to live a rich and full life, inspiring all who knew her. Eileen contracted polio in 1949 and spent 2 years in an iron lung. She had been formidable on the hockey field and this spirit led her to qualifying in office skills at college and take up a position at the Radio Research Station, driving herself in her 3-wheeler invalid carriage. She played the piano, loved gardening, had a talent for painting and enjoyed West Country holidays with the family. In her forties, pneumonia caused her to have a permanent tracheotomy and despite this extra burden, she cared for her ageing mother. Eileen became involved in various local charities including 'People to Places', the local community transport charity for the disabled in Windsor & Maidenhead. With her own car, she continued to enjoy many holidays. Her smile and bright eyes she captivated all who knew her – her many friends regarded it a privilege to have known her and will miss her indomitable spirit. *Unfortunately, we do not have the space to print the whole of the obituary sent in by Ann but if anyone would like a copy of this most moving account of her life, do please contact Valerie.*

**\*\*1950s\*\***

**Valerie Parkes** (Ford 1950-55). I was hoping to attend the Reunion this year but unfortunately the date clashes with the christening of youngest grandchild (the 5th!). I have recently retired but seem to be busier than ever – this seems to be the same with most people. I can't believe that our happy band from Twinchies Lane are now all 65+!! When you look back at the photographs where has the time gone? My best wishes to anyone who remembers me and have a very successful day – see you next year.

**Jean Tyler** (Ireland 1950-56). *At the SGS Speech Day on 9 December Jean was given a special award in recognition for her efforts on behalf of both the School and the Old Paludians. Congratulations to who says 'I never won a prize whilst at school, so it was a novel experience! Ed.*

**Phil Lawrence** (1950-58). Having completely missed last year's reunion (my oversight entirely), I have a couple of years' news to set down. Most of it centres around the Far East, where son Andrew and his Singaporean wife Sarina live, albeit a rather nomadic existence. In 1993 daughter June and I went to their wedding celebrations in Singapore, held on Easter Saturday. This was a glorious and slightly confusing mixture of traditions and cultures, consisting of a seven-course Indonesian meal punctuated by processions by the bride and groom in, sequentially, Malay, Chinese and English wedding outfits. My following trip to China then had to be cancelled because of the SARS epidemic there.

Went to Scout Camp in Holland in July, then in November off to see Andrew & Sarina in Hong Kong, travelling with them to Singapore to take part in the Muslim festival of Hari Raya to mark the end of Ramadan. In May 2004, went to Malta (for the first time in my life) to see Denise's only surviving relatives who have retired there – still a very British ambience (except that the weather is much better!). In July, off on a 3-week 'grand tour' visiting Hong Kong (son & daughter-in-law, who had just found she was pregnant, due in March 2005), then Perth, Australia where I have a friend, and back via Singapore to see the 'in-laws.' Back to Hong Kong with June for family Christmas – traditional turkey dinner out of doors, then home with stopover at Singapore, where Andrew & Sarina have since relocated in time for the baby's birth.

In between all this gadding about, I have kept the house and garden going, managed to hold down a part-time job (flexible hours fortunately!), and maintained involvement with the community via the Scout Group and the Residents' Association. As I approach my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in June, I am glad I realised 2 - 3 years ago that it is important to do all these active things while still capable of doing so, as you never know what the future has in store! *I can foresee another visit looming to see the new baby – Ed!*

**Jim Butcher** (1951-56). Sunday 17 April 2005 will be a big day for – yes once again the patter of many feet will sound along the streets of London and mine will be amongst them. I have been lucky enough to get an entry in the London Marathon – my 9th one. I will try to raise money for my local doctors, I think I owe them something, like a new chair after the times I've been there in the past 35 years! I didn't get an entry last year so I helped at the '23-mile Lucozade' feeding station, only to be joined by James Cracknell (Olympic rower) and Jonny Wilkinson ('that kick' in Rugby); it seemed funny giving out drinks alongside people you see on television so often. The Datchet Dashers, the club I belong to, always operate the 23-mile drink station and anyone can help – you don't have to be a member and it's a wonderful way to soak up the atmosphere.

When your entry is accepted it's like being invited to the biggest party in the world. With music all the way, Rock groups, West Indian Steel Bands, jazz and military as well as the Pearly King and Queen bands. They are all there at the road side as you run past and it really gets you in the mood. One drawback, you have to run a whole mile before the first drink!! Seriously though, I would not like to miss out any year. It raises so much money for so many Charities; everybody gets a good day out and it is the spectators who make the day for the runners with their enthusiasm and support. What makes it special for me is being able to run with the blind or disabled athletes and seeing just how many runners continually encourage them with 'keep going mate', 'well done, you're looking good', 'can I get a lift on your wheelchair' – everything is taken in such good humour. And then there are all the fancy dress runners – they deserve their applause whether for the *Save the Rhino* or whatever – not easy running in all that gear!

When the race is over, you are left weak strength wise yet stronger in the knowledge that the world is still full of very nice people. *Thank you, Jim, for an insider's account of the Marathon – I get exhausted watching it on tv! We all wish you every success and will expect you to be wearing your finisher's medal at next year's Reunion. Good Luck – Ed.*

**Norma Meyrick** (Parker 1951-56). Will be attending the Reunion this year with her brother (**Jeff Parker** 1949-54) from California.

**Margaret Overton** ((Weston 1952-58). I had hoped to join you this year as I am now a sort of lady of leisure. I'm amazed that I haven't missed work as I had always enjoyed it so much. I am enjoying Flower Arranging – I have been a member of Harwich Flower Club for a few years and I did decorate a Church for a wedding last year with the help of a few members. It looked lovely and I have been encouraged to go on a City & Guilds course – I did a year at night school several years ago but it was more a hobby. I am now into planting 'foliage' shrubs! I hope you all have a lovely day.

**Carolyn Mason** (King 1952-58). I will be attending the Reunion this year – arriving in the afternoon. Retirement continues to be busy and full of poetry – main achievements of 2004 being the publication of '*Caviare and Chips*' my third collection (as Carolyn KING just in case anyone should want to order a copy through a bookshop!!), and a prestigious First Prize of £500 presented in Edinburgh by its Poet Laureate (a memorable occasion). Children Simon and Joely are happily settled with partners in York and Cardiff while I still live on the Isle of Wight.

**Stella Holmes** (Ward 1953-57). Once again I can't make it, to my great regret. I really do hope to get there one year before I get too old to travel! I keep well and busy in rural Shropshire and look forward to hearing news of contemporaries when the newsletter arrives. With best wishes (and thanks for all the hard work you and the rest of the committee do). *Stella was a late entry so is really a '49er – Ed.*

**Michael Taylor (1953-57). Will be joining us again, travelling from his home in California.**

**Gwen Sargent** (Jones 1954-59). I will be at the Reunion on 19th (I did not attend last year, unfortunately, as something came up at the last minute). It has occurred to me that one of the girls who was in the class of 1953 to 1959 (approx) is sadly no longer with us. She was **Jennifer Powell** (née Moss). I attended her funeral along with **Jackie Gill** (née Penny) and **Pam Prior** (nee Hornsby). *Thank you for the piece about your friend which I have put in the In Memoriam at the end of this section. We look forward to seeing you at the Reunion this year – Ed.*

**Stuart and Margaret Painter** (Stuart [1954-57] and Margaret [Butcher 1953-57]). I was fascinated to read 'We've lost touch with' in March 2004 Old Pals newsletter re **G P SONNEX**. I know that memory plays tricks but I thought that I was the first pupil ever to pass 'A' level German which was in 1957. The teaching was fantastic and at that time it was one to one so I should have passed! That stood me in good stead because the consequence was for me to work in Germany as Finance Director for 3 years and later as Managing Director for one year between 1969 and 1975. So, my hobby and passion for German substantially helped me in my career as the only person in our company of 800 to speak the language. My wife **Margaret** and our son, Martin also lived in Germany for this period. *I hope you were able to make contact with Mr Sonnex. I know lots of you did so – Ed.*

**Christine Robilliard** (Bubb 1955-60). New Life Member and attending her first Reunion. At the time of joining in November last year, Christine wrote: "After working for the Nat West Bank and then running my own business, I married Stephen and I have two step-daughters and three grandchildren. We have lived in France for a few years running a bed-and-breakfast business. Now we are semi-retired giving us more time for travel. Earlier this year (2004) we spent 7 weeks in Australia and last year visited my sister (**Irene Elfer**) in America. We return frequently to England to see our families including my other sister, **Muriel Aird**. Both sisters are Old Paludians, so I thought it was about time I joined, in time to celebrate my 60th birthday!"

**Celia Johns** (Nelmes 1955-62). Intends to be at the Reunion this year.

**Ruth Sheppard** (Clark 1955-62). My husband has been in hospital three times in the last three months so it has been hectic. He has had a heart bypass op and all sorts of other complications. However, I am expecting to be along to the lunch – I may be a little late with a rehearsal for The Gondoliers' that morning. By the way, I am the Duchess of Plaza Toro when the production starts in Marlow!!!

**John Blaber** (1956-61). Have been living in Scotland for nearly 17 years with my family (wife, four children and nine grandchildren). We have gradually moved north, spending several years in Kidderminster Worcestershire and then in Whaley Bridge Derbyshire, before making our final (we hope) northerly move. I note Roger Fountain was mentioned in last year's Newsletter. He was my Best Man when I married in 1970

in Farnham Common, and we still keep in touch with Christmas cards, postcards when on holiday, and occasional visits and emails. I was Organist and Choirmaster at St Mary's Parish Church, Slough from 1976 to 1980, when we moved to Kidderminster. Although a long way from Slough now, I still have a strong connection with Slough as I work for John Crane UK Ltd., Buckingham Avenue, Slough. I am Customer Training Manager for Europe, Asia and Africa, working from home here in Lanark when I am not travelling abroad running training courses. *It's a small world as John's wife, Myrtle, used to live a few roads away from me and our paths crossed when we were but young teenagers! Hope you are both OK – Ed.*

**Alan Alderman** (1956-64). I retired from a career in IT with Mars a couple of years ago. I have recently become a Trustee of the Macular Disease Society which provides support to people with MD (central vision loss). If you, or someone you know, have this increasingly common condition, I would be delighted to hear from you. Tel 0118 969 3484 or email <alan.java@ukgateway.net>. *Eyesight is something most of us take for granted and maybe don't appreciate until that awful day when we realise something is not right. Macular Disease a condition prevalent in older people – Ed.*

**Robert Moss** (1956-64). Last year, Bob says the name **Stewart Blandamer** (c1959-19??) cropped up in conversation with his wife (!!). He had been a fellow choirboy with Bob at Eton Wick. Stewart apparently became a top musician and songwriter as Oscar Stuart van Blandamer, composing a number one hit for Frankie Miller – who is he, we might ask? Over the past years he has worked with other more well-known names in the world of pop music – he has a home and recording studio in Spain. Bob wonders if anyone knows any more about him or keeps in touch. *You manage to find all sorts of ex-SGS names in the most unusual contexts – I was going to say outlandish but hesitate to do so in case I offend someone (!!!) – keep up with the good work and it will be interesting to see if anyone comes up with some information – Ed.*

**Jennifer Ballard** (Biss 1959-62). *Jennifer has worked extremely hard over the past couple of months – typing, scanning and generally collating all the entries for 'School Ties' our new book which is now available. Many thanks for all the considerable time and effort that has been expended on our behalf. Ed.*

## **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Jennifer Powell** (Moss c.1953-59). **Gwen Sargent** (Jones 1954-59) gives news of the death of her friend in December 2003 and writes: "She was such a bubbly character it's difficult to know what to say. If you came across her in Asda, you would immediately recognise the tall slim shape with boots up to her thighs and a beaming smile. She used to write for one of the local papers I think. Her best friend at school was **Carole Howard**, but judging by the turnout at her funeral, she was very popular with everyone who happened to cross her path. I once went to an evening at **Pam Prior's** house (née Hornsby) with **Jackie Gill** (née Penny) and **Gillian Shaw** (also now deceased) and Jen was there laughing and joking and calling me 'luvvy' – a bit like an elongated Claire Rayner I remember thinking at the time!! There were a great many people at her funeral, showing what a popular and loved person she was, and the memories expressed were so typical of the Jen I remembered. I hope this gives you an idea of the kind of person she was and how much she will be missed by her friends past and present".

## **\*\*1960s\*\***

**Yvana Reeves** (1960-67). I hope the day goes well and I value having information about past teachers and pupils.

**Geraldine (Geri) Ackroyd** (Woodend 1965-70). I remember **Miss White** and she was, quite simply, the teacher who inspired me most during my school years and I was thrilled to read in the 2004 newsletter that she was still going strong. Miss White managed to instil in me a love of the French language and an interest in languages generally. I always looked forward to her lessons and her wonderful dry wit. As I write, I can still hear her words when fellow pupils made requests ... "Anything for a quiet life!". Well, I sincerely hope she now has the "quiet life" she always craved. Thank you, Miss White, for being such a great teacher and mentor, and thank you for keeping me up to date with old school news. Now living near the Welsh border in Herefordshire, I don't get down to Berkshire very often. It is always such a pleasure to receive the newsletter and whenever I find news of interest to my older sister (a resident of the USA since the early seventies who attended SHS between 1962 and 1969), I always pass it on. She was greatly saddened to hear of the death of **Miss Shaw**.

**Laurie Brokenshire CBE** (1966-71). Laurie writes: "I have taken over as Commodore of the Sea Cadets UK-wide. Working from London (but living in Stubbington on the south coast!), I travel around the country a

lot (too much my wife says!) and would be delighted to drop in on Old Pals located near-ish to a Unit (almost 400 of them), so do get in touch: [laurie@brokenshire.net](mailto:laurie@brokenshire.net).

I would also be very interested if anyone has any old PUZZLES (not jigsaws, but "mechanical" puzzles of any other sort - wooden take apart; metal; sliding blocks etc). As an avid solver, and also a collector, of such puzzles, I would be interested to see any that you (or your friends, neighbours or relatives!) might have. If possible/appropriate, even to add some of them to my collection - which you are also welcome to visit if you share my predilection/affliction! It is a lifelong hobby of mine." *Glad the 'retirement' sees you just as busy – but that's what retirement does! Laurie has another hobby which is magic –He is a very talented magician and is a member of the Magic Circle – Ed.*

**Di Aldrich** (Veevers 1966-73). Jerry and I are still in Texas and are returning this July to the UK and will be living near Chester. Apart from writing articles about good practice in the construction sector, I've recently completed a "Master Gardener" course with Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University. This excellent course has been copied by the UK under the title of "Neighbourhood Gardener" - the titles of the two courses highlight the different language use!

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Dr Jeremy Black** (1962-69). *Jeremy died suddenly in April 2004 and the suddenness of his death shook all those who knew him. This obituary was written by Dr Chase F Robinson, Chairman of the Faculty Board of Oriental Studies; it is reproduced here and the source is duly acknowledged – Ed.*

"It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden and unexpected death of Dr Jeremy Black. Appointed to a University Lectureship in Akkadian and elected to a Fellowship at Wolfson College in 1988, Dr Black was a highly respected and much admired member of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, the Griffith Institute, and the University as a whole. In 1995-96 he served as Senior Proctor, and from 1999 to 2001 as Chairman of the Faculty Board of Oriental Studies; he continued to serve the Faculty and University thereafter in a variety of roles. Dr Black was also a scholar of Akkadian and Sumerian of international standing. Amongst his many publications and projects was an online corpus of Sumerian literature, for which he received substantial outside funding, first from the Leverhulme Trust and currently from the AHRB. This enabled him to build a research team, whose work continues in the Oriental Institute. His passing is a source of great sadness, and he will be deeply missed by friends and colleagues."

### **\*\*1970s\*\*      \*\*1980s\*\***

*No news from any of the Old Paludians from these eras.*

**OUR WEBSITE** - Our website is our shop window and we are justly proud of it. Our website enables news and information to be instantly available 24 hours a day wherever you are in the world. We have no doubt that it is possibly the largest and best dedicated school site of its kind in Britain and thanks are due to our excellent Webmaster, Ian Cairns. Why not have a look at [www.OLDPALUDIANS.ORG](http://www.OLDPALUDIANS.ORG) and the chances are that you will find yourself amongst all those photographs!

For the technically minded, a few of the statistics are: 120Mb – total size / 322 pictures (JPG files) – for the school, group, class photos etc / 230 name files (TXT) – containing names from the photographs / 722 files in 40 folders / over 12,000 'hits' in 3 years.

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

We welcome all those who have become Life Members. Our website will keep you fully informed of news, dates of events etc. and for those of you within striking distance of Lascelles Road we hope to see you at our Reunions and other functions. Letters giving news of the Reunions are sent out by post or email each

## gggg School Ties hhhh

January to all members and others who have shown interest and made contact during the previous year.

**Pat Harding** (Essex 1940-1945)

**Jane Pounds** (Brazell 1940-1945)

**Margaret Mama** (Nunn 1945-52)

**Michael Taylor** (1947-1951) now in New Zealand

**Raymond Lye** (1948-1953)

**Anthony Jones** (1948-1955)

**Christine Robilliard** (Bubb 1955-1960)

## Further recollections of the Old Paludians

*If I have omitted anyone, my apologies and the omission will be rectified next time – Valerie*



*We've lost touch with:*

**Audrey Price** (born circa 1923 and school c1934-40). This is really a "Lost and Found but still searching". We had a request from America for the whereabouts of **Audrey Price** who had been at SSS and later SHS – her family had moved to Slough from S Wales. I contacted many of those would have been at SHS at this time and drew a blank except one positive response from **Gwen Kent** (Pugh 1935-40). She gave us some information which confirmed Audrey had been living in America and **Donna Levin** (Morris) had kept in touch – sadly Donna died several years ago. We have now established that Audrey also died several years ago after returning to live in UK. The plea now is – can anyone identify Audrey from the school photos on our website. It is thought there was a sister (Elvies/Elvise??) a year or two younger who was also at SHS. Any information to Valerie please. I would like to thank all the 'girls' who were kind enough to reply – each of them helped to build a picture until we had an answer. Todd Garrison who originally asked for help passes on his thanks to you all – Valerie.

**Rene Elfer** (Bubb 1937-42). From Louisiana, USA, Rene is still hoping to catch up with anyone in her years.

**Audrey Pepper** (Hill 1940-45). I have kept in touch with **Pat Harding** (Essex 1940-45) but would love to hear from others in 5B SHS from that era.

**Margaret Paine** (Paine 1943-48). Still trying to find some of our class – **Sheila Osborne**, **Noreen Parrymore**, **Sheila Rapley** and **Thelma Bannister** – if anyone has any idea where they might be, please give me a ring on 01753 643740 – any news would be welcome – thank you.

**Peter Burgess** and the Upper VB boys (1949-54). We are searching for e **Nick Walton** (year above us), **Kevin Melia** and **Peter Ashley**. Please tell me if you have any information (01905 610329). Why not come and join us for our mini-reunions that we have from time to time!!

**Tony and Shirley Jones** (Stainer 1948-54). Would be pleased to hear news from any old friends and classmates.

**Anne White – circa 1966** We have had an unrelated request as follows: "I wonder if you can help me. I am trying to contact any members of the **White** family who lived at 14 Langley Road in Slough, leaving that address in **1966** when Anne and Stanley White went to Vienna to live. I believe they had a daughter - another **Anne - who would have been around 18 at that time and had been at Slough High School**. If I was able to contact either the daughter or their son - whose name I do not know - I may be able to trace a long lost relative of mine, Irene Joan White who lived at 14 Langley Road in 1953 and who may be Stanley's sister. I would be very grateful if anyone has any information". *If anyone can help, please contact Valerie.*

## *The Old Paludians Book*



Published in 2005 to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Old Paludians.

Once again Old Paludians have drawn upon their memories - 180 pages of schooldays, perhaps in times of war or national strife, perhaps special personal occasions that stay forever in the mind. Maybe starting school as timid pupils or leaving school as confident young adults. Friendships that have passed every possible test of time and are still fresh today - places - hilarious memories - poignant memories. They are all here, recorded forever and giving an intriguing overview of school years against a background of the social life of Slough. It is a 'must have' for all members and will make a special present for families and friends.

".... there was a sudden burst of gunfire and the sound of bombs dropping in the Langley direction. The plaster over the windows cracked ominously and we dived under the desks pronto! When we emerged, Mr H..... (taking the heat out of the situation), sat benignly and said, *Who gave you permission to get under your desks? .....*"

"...Miss P was young and pleasant, and had a hard time controlling some of the boys, .... Miss T was made of sterner stuff, and you hardly dared breathe when she was in charge, or even in the vicinity ...."

"..."Well," said the news editor thoughtfully...*Unscrupulous, but enterprising; deceitful, but resourceful. He shall start on Monday ...* and I did. I wonder what Dr L... would have made of it all....."

".... one girl took a bite into her bun and screamed..... inside was half a mouse ... everyone was tearing their bun apart, looking for the other half....."

✂ ..... ✂ ..... ✂

### *School Ties - further recollections of the Old Paludians*

In celebration of the 90th anniversary of our founding we are publishing our second book made possible by so many of you writing and submitting recollections of your time at school. It is soft backed, about 180 pages with some photographs and complements our first book by Peter Bennett which was published in 2000.

**Mrs Jean Tyler, 1, Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0DW**

- ☐ If personally collected from Jean Tyler each book costs £10
- ☐ For UK postal orders please send £11.50 for each book required
- ☐ For overseas (airmail) orders please send £12.50 for each book required
- ☐ Please complete the reverse side of this form and send to Jean Tyler at the above address
- ☐ Please make cheques payable to **The Old Paludians**



But we've found:

ordon and is anxious to restore it to its rightful family. The late **Barbara Holmes** (Mickleburgh 1938-45) was related in some way to

**Mr G P Sonnex** – last year we repeated an appeal that had been in the local papers concerning a former SGS master who was looking for his first pupils who had passed 'A' level German. We had a great response from this one and many of the former pupils got in touch with him. Thank you to everyone who replied – Ed.

## The Old Paludians: 2005 -2006

|            |                                                                                                                              |
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✂ ..... ✂ ..... ✂

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I wish to order ..... book(s) to be sent by post @ **£11.50 each**      £.....

I wish to order .....book(s) to be sent overseas @ **£12.50 each**      £.....

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**      £.....

NAME (please print) .....

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